Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication
Rice University
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RUSSIAN 141: First Year Russian 1
Fall Semester 2019

Class number: 14120
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Time and location: MWF HUM 227 9:00 – 9:50 AM
Office hours: M, W 2-3 PM & by appointment
Office: Rayzor Hall 213

Course Description:
Welcome to Russian 141! In this course you will learn the basic skills necessary for communication in Russian (listening, reading, writing, speaking). No previous knowledge of Russian is required. The materials used in this course include a textbook, a workbook, and authentic, socioculturally situated spoken or written language samples. In class and in your homeworks you will engage in structured analysis of contextualized language use and interactional linguistic features. Based on an active student-centered, critical-thinking approach, this course intends to raise student awareness of contextualized language use and socioculturally significant interactions.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Read and write in Cyrillic;
- Carry on basic conversations, including asking and answering questions, on many topics from your daily life, including: your life, your family and freands, your schedule and the university, your courses, and your hobbies;
- Use and understand basic, everyday expressions and phrases;
- Understand the phonetic differences between English and Russian;
- Open and close (telephone) conversations;
- Fill in forms with personal details and read and/or write simple texts (e.g., posters, ads, notes, simple letters, emails, blog posts, schedules, tickets, or text messages);
- Use language appropriately in certain social contexts (e.g., formality, politeness, setting);
- Address misunderstandings in conversation (e.g, by asking for clarification, repetition).

Course Goals and Objectives:
This course satisfies the criteria for Distribution Group 1. By the end of this course students will:

- begin to develop critical understanding of Russian language use;
- learn tools they can use to analyze Russian in context and in interaction;
- demonstrate basic interactive skills (e.g., speaking, listening, reading, writing) in Russian;
- learn about and begin to identify the ways language use (in both Russian and their first language) can change according to cultural and social contexts;
- recognize and understand differences and similarities between Russian-speaking cultures and communities and their own.

Course Materials:
Required: Always bring your textbook to class.

1. *Let's go! Russian for adults. A course for beginners: textbook. Part 1.1-St-Peresburg, Zlatoust, 2019.- 176 p.* and the accompanying:
2. *Let's go! Russian for adults. A course for beginners: workbook. Part 1.1-St-Peresburg, Zlatoust, 2019.- 160 p.*
3. Any supplemental teather's materials (audio, video, texts, etc.) will be provided in class or on Canvas.

Other: Russian Tongue Twisters, Middlebury: http://sites.middlebury.edu/rusphonetics/ > Скороговорки
Recommended:
English Grammar for Students of Russian by Edwina J. Cruise and *English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary* by Kenneth Katzner. These are also available at the library.
The textbook, workbook, dictionary (Katzner), and *Grammar* (Cruise) are on reserve at the library.
Beyer, Thomas R., Jr. *501 Russian Verbs* (Happauge, NY: Barrons, 2001).
Leed, Richard L. and Slava Paperno. *5000 Russian Words with All Their Inflected Forms: A Russian-English Dictionary*. Columbus: Slavica, 1987. See also their website: http://russian.cornell.edu/rdt/

Grading:

Attendance and participation	15%
Homework	15%
Participation in the language table, films, workshops, tutors	5%
Projects: speaking and writing	25%
Oral exams (2)	10%
Unit exams (6)	30%

At the end of the quarter your final percentage will determine your final grade, as follows:

99 - 100	**A+**	84 - 87	**B**	70 - 73	**C-**
94 - 98	**A**	80 - 83	**B-**	68 - 69	**D+**
90 - 93	**A-**	78 - 79	**C+**	64 - 67	**D**
88 - 89	**B+**	74 - 77	**C**	60 - 63	**D-**
				60 and below	**F**

Attendance and participation:
Successful language learning requires frequent interaction, diligent preparation, and active participation. Athletes, musicians, and artists must practice daily in order to excel; in order to learn the russian language you need to do the same. For this reason, it is imperative that you attend class faithfully. Each day that you are absent or that you come to class unprepared will affect your progress with the language. You are responsible for catching up on any class material and assignments that you miss. Always consult the syllabus and your fellow classmates first. Class attendance and participation will be assessed using the scale on page 6 of this syllabus. Chronic lateness will also adversely affect your grade.

Excused absences: Absences will be excused and make-up work will be permitted only when the instructor is presented with acceptable documentation. Legitimate, excused absences include the following: verifiable confining illness, serious verifiable family emergencies, required participation in university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, subpoenas, jury duty, and military service. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any excused absence as far in advance as possible. Work must be made up in a timely manner and before the next scheduled evaluation. Documentation for excused absences must be presented as soon as possible. No documentation will be accepted after the last day of regularly scheduled classes.

Unexcused absences: All students are allowed three one-class absences without penalty. Starting with five absences, every absence will result in a drop of your final grade by one third of a letter (e.g. A to A-).

Exams: If you know in advance that you will not be able to take an exam, you must make arrangements to take it with your instructor prior to the missed exam. If you have an unforeseen emergency on the day of the exam, you must contact the instructor (by phone, e-mail, or in person) as soon as possible and, in order to make up the exam, provide documentation for the emergency.

Homework:

You will have required written and/or oral homework nearly every night. Homework assignments for each unit will be announced on a Homework Syllabus (posted on Canvas) before each unit begins or in the class. You should plan to spend approximately two hours per day at home for every hour in class. If answers to the assignments are provided (on Canvas), you should correct your homework before turning it in. You should complete all workbook exercises **on a separate sheet of paper** (not in the workbook). Homework is due at the time of the next class. If you forget to bring it to class, you may bring it to Rayzor 213 by the end of the day. Each homework assignment will be assessed using the rubric on page 6 of this syllabus. Late work will be accepted until the relevant unit exam but will receive a maximum of 2 points.

Exams:
Unit exams: During the semester there will be four quizzes that will focus on the assessment of reading, listening, writing, and language use in context. While these unit exams will not be cumulative in terms of assessment targets, you will be expected to recognize and use material from previous chapters in the course of each exam. These will occur on the following days:

- Units 1-3: Friday, September 20
- Units 3-6: Friday, October 11
- Units 6-9: Friday, November 15
- Units 10: Friday, December 6

Oral exams: During the semester there will be two oral exams. These oral exams will have two parts (with audio recording): 1. Role-plays with another student from your class; 2. An interview with your tutors; and 3. Pronunciation of tongue twisters and reading according to the rules of Russian pronunciation. They will be administered outside of class. A rubric for these exams will be provided on Canvas. Throughout the semester Russian tongue twisters will be assigned as at-home phonetics practice each week. At the oral exam you will be asked to pronounce one of the tongue twisters from previous weeks.

You will sign-up for each oral exam on Canvas in the week preceding the exam. Students should notify their instructor of any time conflicts with the proposed oral exam times immediately and before the oral exam. Students who do not sign up for the exam and fail to notify their instructor of a time conflict or other issue(s) with scheduling before the exam or who do not show up at the scheduled exam time will not be allowed to take it. Students should not sign up for oral exams during other class times.

Speaking and writing project:
Speaking: During the semester you will arrange two brief conversations with Russian speakers outside of class. One will occur with the Russian tutors, in groups of two. All of these conversations will be video recorded.

Writing: TBA

For each part of the speaking and writing project you will also submit a reflection on and self-assessment of your writing and interactions. Tasks, objectives, and a rubric for each part of the project will be provided on Canvas. We will also discuss this project more in class.

The due date for your write up of your spoken conversations with the tutors will be due on the university-assigned date of our exam, **12/6/19.** The first recorded conversation of oral exam is due 10/11, the second must be recorded by no later than Friday, 12/6.

Study in Russia:
It's not too early for you to start thinking about study abroad in Russia. No matter what your major is, this can be a wonderful experience. Ask about it.

Russian Tutor:

CLIC provides the free service of a Russian language tutor who will be available to meet with you and help with assignments or practice conversation. Tutoring will take place in the CLIC tutoring rooms on the first floor of Rayzor Hall (RH 116 and 116A). Tutor's hours for this semester will be announced soon.

You are required to meet with tutors three times this semester, by the following dates: first visit by 10/18, second visit by 11/13, and third visit by 12/2. Make sure you plan these ahead of time – tutors will not be able to add extra tutoring hours because everyone put this off until the last minute. Attendance at these three tutoring sessions will be counted as part of your attendance grade. These meetings are separate from your speaking project.

Office hours: Office hours will be every Monday and Wednesday 2-3 pm in Rayzor off. 213. This is the time for individual consultations of various kinds: training in pronunciation and intonation, checking homework, answers to grammatical questions, working on your projects, talking practice, discussing current events. Use the opportunity to practice your Russian language!

Extracurricular Activities and Extra Credit:
This semester we will have many opportunities for you to interact in and with Russian outside of class. Our weekly conversation hour (Russian Table) for this semester will be announced soon. We will also have a Russian film series – the flyer and schedule for the film series will be posted on Canvas. We will have 3 public film screenings to which you may bring friends, and we may have 2-3 private, class-only film screenings that we will schedule together (not on the flyer). You may receive up to two points of extra credit added to each unit exam grade for attendance at events that occur during the unit in question. Extracurricular activities will be announced in class. For one of these points you may also watch any of the films listed on the "Suggested Films" document posted on Canvas (many of these are available at Fondren, on Netflix, on Youtube, or on the Rice streaming media site - Kanopy) and write a one paragraph (~200 words) reflection on the film in English.

Rice Kanopy: https://rice-kanopystreaming-com.ezproxy.rice.edu/

A list of websites, books, and other resources that are useful for students of Russian is also posted on Canvas.

The information contained in this syllabus, other than the absence policies, is subject to change with reasonable advance notice as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

If you have a documented disability that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111/ adarice@rice.edu / 713-348-5841 / http://dss.rice.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) meet with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Honor Code
Students' academic work and behavior in this class will be held to the highest standards of integrity and are governed by the Rice University Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. You may consult with peers for homework and projects, but you may not copy someone else's work or have them do any part of yours. Exams and quizzes must be completed under the Honor Code.

Wellbeing and Counseling at Rice University
The Gibbs Wellness Center houses the Student Wellbeing Office, the Rice Counseling Center, and the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Title IX Support (http://wellbeing.rice.edu, 713-348-3311). The Student Wellbeing Office (http://wellbeing.rice.edu/SWO/ / wellbeing@rice.edu) can help with any problems you

might have navigating Rice, including but not limited to issues related to: personal and professional relationships, stress, time management, difficult decisions, struggles with identity, and academic concerns.

The Rice Counseling Center (http://wellbeing.rice.edu/RCC/ / 713-348-3311) is available to help with free and confidential services. They can help with topics such as: personal and professional relationships, academic performance, anxiety, personal identity, depression, and college life. Call or stop by to make an appointment.

Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against based on their sex, you can find the appropriate resources to file a formal complaint here: http://safe.rice.edu/OptionsForReporting/. A list of other resources can be found here: http://safe.rice.edu/OptionsForSupport/. The Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Title IX Support can be reached at 713-348-3311 or titleixsupport@rice.edu.

Religious Accommodations
Every reasonable effort will be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. Absences from classes or exams for religious reasons do not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence – it is the obligation of the student to provide the instructor with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays and absences so that reasonable accommodation can be provided.

Classroom Policies
All students are expected to abide by these policies, and students will be held accountable for any infraction of these rules. Thank you for your cooperation and please see your instructor if you have any questions or concerns.

1. You are expected to use Russian as much as possible in the classroom in order to maximize your opportunities to speak and hear Russian.
2. In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk and write about yourself, your family, and friends. You may provide fictitious information if you prefer.
3. The use of any electronic devices is not permitted during class, except with permission of the instructor.
4. From time to time, matters may come up that will require you to stop by your instructor's office. Every attempt will be made to find a mutually convenient time, but the responsibility is ultimately yours. You should be prepared to find time to meet with your instructor during normal business hours.
5. You must arrive on time and remain in class until dismissed.

Email Policy
Rice webmail will be one method used to communicate important information to students. Students are responsible for keeping this Rice email address viable and should check it frequently. If you need to communicate with the instructor in person, please do so after class, during office hours, or by making an appointment. For students in this course, proper use of email to the instructor will generally be marked by the following elements:

- A salutation (e.g. "Dear (name),");
- Adherence to standard usage in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure;
- Acknowledgement of responses received.

Proper instances might include these:

- Informing the instructor of an unavoidable absence prior to class (or as soon as you become aware of the issue; this does not serve as a substitute for standard documentation);

- Bringing general problems with course materials or access to the instructor's attention;
- Requesting a meeting outside of office hours.

Always remember to check the course syllabus, look over the Canvas course site, and consult fellow students for information first. Why? The ability to send a professional email will be necessary in any field that you choose to pursue. You are encouraged to get into the habit now, when the stakes are low.

Class Attendance and Participation Grading Scale

Class participation and preparation will be assessed every day using the following scale:

0 = Student is absent, unavailable for classroom participation

1 = Student is not prepared for class, does not participate, or is asleep

2 = Student is rarely prepared, rarely able to answer when called on, rarely volunteers

3 = Student is sometimes prepared, but preparation is inconsistent; answers when called on; uses Russian when required; participates in class activities; stays on task during partner/group work

4 = Student is usually prepared; answers when called on; willingly participates in class activities; stays on task during partner/group work; makes a conscious effort to use as much Russian as possible; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone in particular)

5 = High level of preparation; student answers when called on; willingly participates in class activities; stays on task during partner/group work; uses Russian almost exclusively; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone in particular); shares pertinent information; asks questions or volunteers information that is relevant to the class.

Written Homework Grading Scale

Homework will be assessed on a daily basis using the following scale:

0 = Did not turn in or no work completed

1 = Carelessly done with many mistakes; no evidence of use of answer key; open-ended activities carelessly prepared

2 = Little evidence of correction of exercises using answer key; few exercises done carefully, most hastily completed; maximum for late work

3 = Some evidence of correction of exercises using answer key; some exercises done carefully, others hastily completed or not completed at all

4 = Most exercises carefully completed; most exercises corrected using an answer key; may be missing some information or corrections

5 = All exercises carefully done; all exercises carefully corrected using answer key; open-ended activities show thought and attention